

Glacier National Park
(A part of Waterton-Glacier
International Peace Park)

P.O. Box 128 West Glacier, MT 59936 www.nps.gov/glac/home.htm

406 888-7800 phone 406 888-7808 fax

Glacier National Park News Release

April 26, 2002 For Immediate Release Amy Vanderbilt 406 888-7906 NEWS02-16

Glacier National Park Road Update

WEST GLACIER, MONT. – The road into Glacier National Park's Many Glacier Valley opened for vehicle traffic Friday morning, April 26; however, it is currently snowing east of the Continental Divide. Once opened, and weather permitting, the roadway will remain open. A temporary offroad restriction is currently in effect in the Many Glacier Valley in the vicinity of Altyn Peak - above the road to the north - due to the presence of several winter killed Rocky Mountain sheep carcasses, which are being fed on by grizzly bears. Until further notice, use is restricted above the roadway from Sheep Curve east of the Many Glacier Hotel turnoff to the Swiftcurrent/Iceberg Lake Trailhead. This restriction is posted and will remain in effect until bears have left the area. The Swiftcurrent/Iceberg Lake Trail remains open.

Elsewhere in Glacier, the section of the Going-to-the-Sun Road between West Glacier and Avalanche Creek, a distance of 16 miles, is open for vehicle traffic. Weather permitting, the six-mile section of the Sun Road between St. Mary and Rising Sun also remains open for vehicle use.

West of the Continental Divide, snowplows have pushed above the Loop. Weekend visitors may bicycle or walk as far as the West Side Tunnel, seven miles beyond Avalanche Creek. Due to hazards from rockfall and avalanches - when plowing is underway above the Loop on Tuesdays through Fridays from

6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.- all use will be restricted above Logan Creek, five miles from Avalanche Creek.

Non-motorized use is welcome on any park roads that are otherwise closed to motor vehicles, but users are reminded to be alert for snow, ice, and rockfall as well as bears and other wildlife. Bicyclists and hikers are asked to stay on the right side of the roadway. Visitors are also reminded

that when sections of park roads are closed to motorized vehicle use, and are utilized as trails, these roadways are closed to all pets.

- More -

In the park's North Fork area, the Inside Road between the Polebridge Ranger Station and Big Prairie was opened to vehicle traffic on Wednesday, April 24. The Camas Road and the Inside Road, north of Big Prairie and south of Polebridge, remain closed to vehicle traffic until further notice.

East of the Continental Divide, snow removal is underway on the road into Two Medicine Valley and the road has been plowed to the park boundary from Highway 49. The entire Two Medicine Road is targeted to open for vehicle traffic on Friday, May 10, weather permitting. A portion of the road may open to Running Eagle Falls prior to May 10, conditions permitting. The Chief Mountain Road has also been plowed to the park boundary and is scheduled to open for the season on Wednesday, May 15.

Plowing progress and subsequent road openings are contingent on many factors such as weather and visibility, existing and/or new snowpack, ice, avalanches, rockfall and slides, overall road conditions, and equipment failures. Plowing status and road conditions are available on the park's website (www.nps.gov/glac/whatsnew/gttsrd.htm).

Additional updates will be provided as necessary.

- NPS -